

5 December 1977

Letters

The CIA Cuts

Your article about personnel cuts at the CIA (NATIONAL AFFAIRS, Nov. 21) quotes me as saying, "You really heard them crying, haven't you? 'Often at personal risk!' I bet you there isn't five of them that had personal risk." I very much regret having said this. It was an unfortunate remark that was made in a

spirited exchange with the NEWSWEEK reporter and was in no way intended to apply to all agency employees. I was expressing my disappointment and annoyance only with those few who took their complaints to the news media.

I am mindful each day of the 35 stars displayed in the lobby of our headquarters, in memory of 35 heroic members of the CIA who gave their lives in the service of their country. I am also aware that many others serve in unusual and difficult circumstances with little likelihood of ever receiving public recognition. I have great respect and admiration for all those in the CIA who I know continue to serve their country so well.

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■ I'm tired of hearing about how fired CIA agents might be susceptible to Soviet blandishments. If that is the quality of the operations group, then we ought to get rid of the rest of them.

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